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Identical letters dated 18 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a letter dated 18 March 2003 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the withdrawal of United Nations staff from Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 18 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing in reference to the resounding failure of the American Administration of Evil to obtain the passage of a hostile, colonialist war draft in the Security Council and its clear lack of success in obtaining international cover for the aggression which it is plotting against Iraq. Indeed, not only did the Security Council reject the American and British draft resolution for a colonialist war; the entire international community also rejected the American colonialist war policy against Iraq.

To offset this ignominious defeat, the American Administration of Evil resorted to exerting pressure on the United Nations to adopt a decision to withdraw all international staff working in Iraq on the pretext that their lives will be threatened if the United States carries out its aggression against Iraq. The Secretariat of the United Nations ought to have informed the United States that such aggression is unlawful and would endanger the lives of 26 million Iraqis and approximately 1,500 international civil servants working in Iraq. It ought to have called upon the Security Council to reject the pressure by the United States as detracting from the credibility of the United Nations, rather than acquiescing to the withdrawal of international civil servants, thus shirking the responsibilities of the United Nations under its Charter and going against the opinion of both the States and the peoples of the international community, who oppose such aggression. As a result of that decision, all United Nations activities in Iraq came to a halt on the evening of 17 March 2003 without any legitimate reason and in violation of the fundamental principles and raison d'être of the United Nations and the resolutions adopted for starting and terminating its activities.

The Secretariat of the United Nations has withdrawn the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the mission charged with observing the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait. Its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), was "... to deter violations of the boundary through its presence in and surveillance of the demilitarized zone and to observe any hostile or potentially hostile action mounted from the territory of one State against the other". That measure will make it easier for the American aggressors to wage their aggression against Iraq from Kuwait.

The United States also applied pressure to compel the Secretariat to withdraw all the staff of the United Nations programme for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Iraq and the United Nations (the oil-for-food programme). As from 17 March 2003 the programme stopped attending to the basic humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, thus adding to the suffering of that people caused by 13 long years of sanctions and past American acts of aggression and likely to result in the future from the destruction of basic life structures in Iraq that will be brought by far-reaching American hostilities. Stopping the humanitarian programme means stopping the supply to Iraq of medicine, food and other basic humanitarian necessities paid for entirely out of its own funds. The supply of some 10.5 million dollars worth of humanitarian goods paid for solely with Iraqi funds has been stopped as a consequence of the Secretariat's decision to withdraw the staff of the Iraq Programme in violation of Security Council resolution 987 (1995) and the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding between Iraq and the United Nations.

The Secretariat has also pulled out of Iraq the inspection teams of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose work over the past three and one half months has demonstrated the untruth of the American and British claims that proscribed weapons and activities exist in Iraq. The presence of the teams became burdensome to the United States because they brought shame on the evil American Administration, laying bare its allegations and false documents. The withdrawal of the inspection teams violates Security Council resolutions 1441 (2002), 1284 (1999) and 687 (1991) and other relevant Security Council resolutions and signifies that the United Nations Secretariat has failed to comply with the will of the international community to continue the inspections with a view to meeting the requirements of the Security Council resolutions, first and foremost by lifting the tyrannical sanctions against Iraq and by freeing the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, in particular those possessed by Israel.

In addition, the Secretariat of the United Nations has decided to stop the work of all United Nations specialized agencies in Iraq connected with cooperation agreements with the Iraqi side in the fields of health, education, relief, preservation of the environment and other humanitarian activities, and has withdrawn their staffs. Such a measure violates the principles and objectives of international economic and social cooperation referred to in Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, and specifically the objective set forth in paragraph 55 of the Charter, which calls for "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development".

What this ultimately means is that the unfortunate measures adopted by the United Nations due to the pressure of American extortion are totally out of keeping with the responsibilities of the United Nations in the area of prevention of aggression, maintenance of international peace and security, development of friendly relations among nations and promotion of economic and social progress and development, nor are they in keeping with the desire of the international community, expressed by the vast majority of the States Members of the United Nations, for the inspections to continue. These measures, therefore, have clearly made the Secretariat a tool for facilitating the aggressive designs of the United States that were rejected by the Security Council and by the vast majority of the countries of the world. Thus the United Nations has slipped further and further into the moral impasse from which it has suffered for the past 13 years, i.e. since it began to impose sanctions unprecedented in history for their inhumanity, savagery and cruelty, their all-inclusiveness and their violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We hope that the Secretariat of the United Nations will shoulder its responsibilities under the Charter, return the United Nations staff members to Iraq and compel the United States to assume responsibility for any threat to which such staff might be subject during the performance of their duties in Iraq. We further hope that the States Members of the United Nations and the international community will reject the measures that have been imposed on the United Nations Secretariat by the United States in an attempt to compensate for falling flat in its effort to rally international support for its hostile intentions.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq